

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-23, 27-29, 33-41 and 44-52 were pending in the application at the time the present Office Action was mailed. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice, claims 3, 4, 6, 9-11, 14, 15, 17 and 44 have been amended, and new claims 53 and 54 have been added in this response. Accordingly, claims 3-6, 9-23, 27-29, 33-41 and 44-54 are presently pending in this application.

In the Office Action mailed November 22, 2006, claims 1, 3-6, 9-17, 44 and 45 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the claims in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 1, 3-6, 9-17, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,113,662 to Sprules ("Sprules"); and

(B) Claims 18-23, 27-29, 33-41 and 46-51 were allowed.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor, Examiner Jagannathan, for engaging in a telephone conference on December 13, 2006, and requests that this paper constitute the applicant's Interview Summary. During the telephone conference, the present Office Action, Sprules, claim 1, and new product-by-process claims were discussed. The Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor indicated that new product-by-process claims which include the features of claims 18 and 51 would be allowed. New claims 53 and 54 correspond to these product-by-process claims.

A. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-17, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sprules. Claim 1 has been cancelled in this response and therefore the rejection of this claim is now moot. Claims 3-6, 9-17, 44 and 45 have been amended to

depend from claim 54, which was indicated to be allowable in the December 13 telephone conference. Accordingly, the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 3-6, 9-17, 44 and 45 should be withdrawn.

B. New Claims 53 and 54

New claims 53 and 54 are product-by-process claims that correspond to process claims 18 and 51, respectively. In light of the agreement reached during the December 13 telephone conference, new claims 53 and 54 should be allowed.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant accordingly requests reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6465. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 356828002US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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